

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-9, 11 and 13 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-17 are presented for examination.

Claims 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant submits that claim 1 has been amended to appear in proper condition for allowance.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Collins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,818). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Collins.

Collins discloses a system for integrating active and simulated decision making processes. The system includes a storage device 12 storing a representation of a domain model, a decision making module 14, a real-time system interface 16, a simulated event generator module 18, and an event processor module 20. The system 10 further comprises a simulation controller module 22, a simulation clock 24, a real-time clock 26, a resource domain status file 28, a simulated event file 30, and a real-time event file 32. See Collins at col. 3, ll. 66 – col. 4, ll. 13. The module 14 receives real-time domain events during the real-time mode of operation, and receives simulated domain events during the simulation mode (col. 5, ll. 40-45).

The event processor module 20 selects either the real-time mode or the simulation mode based on selections by system users. For example, system users can select the real-time mode to conduct active assignment and scheduling for technicians in the field. The simulation mode can be selected to evaluate the effects of potential changes to the resource domain model, to compare recommendations issued by module 14 with decisions made by system users, or to provide training for system users (col. 5, ll. 59-67).

Claim 1 recites determining whether a real-time event has a higher priority than a first non-real time event being processed at a personal computer, and processing real-time data if the real-time event has a higher priority than the first non-real time event. Applicant submits that Collins does not disclose such a limitation. Collins discloses operating in either a real-time mode or a simulation mode based on selections by system users. Therefore, it can be inferred that the Collins processor processes all simulated events, or all real-time events, not a mixture of both. Accordingly, Collins is not capable of determining the relative priority of a non-real time event and a real-time event.

As a result, claim 1 is patentable over Collins. Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and include additional limitations. Therefore, claims 2-6 are also patentable over Collins.

Claim 7 recites a central processing unit (CPU), coupled to the bus, to generate real-time events upon receiving real-time analog data and to process the real-time analog data if the real-time event has a higher priority than a non-real-time event. Thus, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 7 is also patentable over Collins. Because claims 8-12 depend from claim 7 and include additional limitations, claims 8-12 are also patentable over Collins.

Claim 13 recites an event handler coupled to an event mechanism to process real-time events received from the event mechanism upon determining the relative priority between the real-time events and non-real-time events. Thus, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 13 is also patentable over Collins. Because claims 14-17 depend from claim 13 and include additional limitations, claims 14-17 are also patentable over Collins.

Claims 3-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,818) in view of Mays et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,321).

Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Collins even in view of Mays.

Mays discloses a kernel for enforcing a hierarchical invocation structure that prevents upcalls by executing kernel operations during each invocation of code unit of application by

another code unit. Kernel operations determine the priority of the invoking unit of code based on the hierarchy of the invocation structure. Only invocations by either lower priority units, or the unit itself are allowed. Once invoked, the kernel operates to establish a priority for the invoked task. The kernel provides various event mechanisms to provide for priority based preemption concurrently with the enforced invocation structure, thus allowing the handling of asynchronous events in a multitasking environment. The event mechanisms allow a unit of code to signal the occurrence of a condition, which may be captured by other code units. The kernel determines the proper code unit for responding to the condition, and employs scope rules to further define the handling operation. Scheduling and tasking mechanisms schedule the handling of the condition and dispatch the handling of the event on a prioritized basis. See Mays at Abstract.

Nevertheless, Mays does not disclose or suggest generating real-time events upon receiving real-time analog data and processing the real-time analog data if the real-time event has a higher priority than a non-real-time event. As discussed above, Collins does not disclose or suggest such a limitation. Thus, any combination of Collins and Mays would not disclose or suggest generating real-time events upon receiving real-time analog data and processing the real-time analog data if the real-time event has a higher priority than a non-real-time event. Consequently, the present claims are patentable over Collins in view of Mays.

Claims 8-11 and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Collins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,818) in view of Mays et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,321), further in view of Matsui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,701). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Collins and Mays even in view of Matsui.

Matsui discloses a microprocessor that operates at high and low clock frequencies. See Matsui at col. 2, ll. 23-30.

However, Matsui does not disclose or suggest generating real-time events upon receiving real-time analog data and processing the real-time analog data if the real-time event has a higher priority than a non-real-time event. As discussed above, Collins and Mays do not disclose or suggest such a limitation. Thus, any combination of Collins, Mays and Matsui would also not disclose or suggest generating real-time events upon receiving real-time analog data and processing the real-time analog data if the real-time event has a higher priority than a non-real-time event. Accordingly, the present claims are patentable over Collins in view of Mays, and further in view of Matsui.

Claims 12, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Collins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,818) in view of Mays et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,321), further in view of Matsui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,701), and further in view of Raamot. Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Collins, Mays and Matsui even in view of Raamot.

Raamot discloses a digital-to-analog converter having a high degree of resolution. See Raamot at Abstract. However, Matsui does not disclose or suggest generating real-time events upon receiving real-time analog data and processing the real-time analog data if the real-time event has a higher priority than a non-real-time event. As discussed above, neither Collins, Mays nor Matsui disclose or suggest such a limitation. Thus, any combination of Collins, Mays, Matsui and Raamot would also not disclose or suggest generating real-time events upon receiving real-time analog data and processing the real-time analog data if the real-time event has a higher priority than a non-real-time event. Accordingly, the present claims are patentable over Collins in view of Mays, further in view of Matsui and further in view of Raamot.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

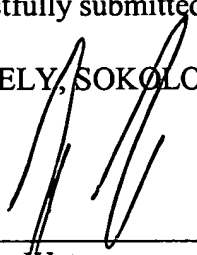
The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: July 17, 2003



Mark L. Watson
Reg. No. 46,322

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(303) 740-1980